

Leicester,  
Friday morn.  
Sept 13/72.

Dear Mr. Garrison;

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I seem to have been quite  
Zemiss in the matter of writing to you; and  
I certainly intended to do so sooner, and let  
you know of Alf. Webb's arrival & doings.  
But a sad episode came into this week's  
course of events, - the death of my brother  
John's youngest daughter, nearly 17. It  
occurred Sunday night, in the extreme heat and  
closeness, - or rather at about 1, Monday morning,  
and we heard of it Monday noon, & that as  
the funeral w<sup>d</sup>. be at noon of Wednesday. My  
mother was here, and still is; and, though she  
at first thought she must go at once to Boston  
& if possible to the funeral, she afterwards was  
convinced she had better not attempt it. Alfred  
& his wife came on Tuesday morn, and I met them,  
Ade. being with me, in Worcester. The next morn.  
very early my wife, Bessie, and I ~~went~~ to  
Boston, attended the funeral at Dorchester, went  
to Forest Hills, & afterwards came back to Leicester,



arriving at about 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Ade. had remained at home, as she w<sup>d</sup>. have done on my Mother's account in any case, and the Webbs had at least a good opp<sup>n</sup>. to rest. Yesterday in the aftn. we went over to Stephen Foster's, took tea & papered the eves., I. astounding them with various quings. out about "the Bible", & some other subjects. I. & Abby had called here, the eves. before, to see them. This morning we have visited Schools, &c., and were going to Waveren this aftn. on a like errand, but the heavy South East ~~and~~ rain-storm put a veto upon it. We shall perhaps attempt it tomorrow, if good weather. They will stay with us until Monday mornig, & then take the train (at Ward's) wh. leaves Boston at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ , & go on to Syracuse, passing a day with the Willkinsons, & then on to Niagara, &c. We have been very glad to have them with us, for their own sakes, as well as their father's.

They brought us, from you, a very capital photograph group of yourself & your four sons. Nothing could be better. Every one is



excellent, and I think as good as possible. Certainly I can see no fault in either. We are all very glad to have so good a picture, and thank you for it most heartily.

Among all the surprises and absurdities of this political summer, has there been one to equal that of Charles Sumner's nomination for Governor by the Massachusetts Democrats! The force of folly can no farther go; and if Chas. Sumner can bear up under that, he must almost be more than mortal. To-day it is positively affirmed that he did not know, before sailing, of the plan to nominate him, - that his friend (?) Bird was very reluctant to have it so, &c., &c. - and that the whole thing was a freak of N. P. Banks's, with the support of that intelligent & virtuous body, the Young Democracy of Massachusetts. If this be so, and C. S. should "decline the honor", hasn't the said Mass'th Democracy "rolled in the dirt for nothing"? But, if he accepts (!), he will be the one to "roll, &c., &c. for nothing."



I was pleas<sup>d</sup>. to see that Wendell Phillips  
had volunteered the prediction that C. S. would  
net get over a thousand Repub<sup>n</sup>. votes in the  
State. I grudge him a hundred, though they  
must be little worthy of the name of republicans,  
- or men of sense any way - who will give a  
vote to C. Sumner in his present position.  
Wendell's extravaganzas lose much of their force,  
in view of his own changeable & contradictory  
course, the past ten years; and his proposal  
to make Grant perpetual President, or until  
all the rebel-leaders are put under the rod, is  
a very foolish one in itself, weakens the rest of  
his speech, & gives a large advantage to the  
enemy. Butler made a good point, I  
thought, in saying there was such a thing as too  
much learning; and that in spite of all the  
knowledge of the Democratic Candidate for Governor,  
he hadn't enough "to know his own friends, or how  
to stand by them". Admitting that amount of  
fatuity, why shouldn't he accept the Dem. nomination?  
For every other reason than his own sake, I wish  
he may accept it. It will teach him a lesson  
he sadly needs to learn, - some self-distrust, &  
that the Massachusetts people are not followers,  
in that style, even of C. Sumner.

Our love to your wife, yourself, & family,  
with kind regards to Miss Dow, from us all,  
Very affly Yours S. May